

United States Air Force

B I O G R A P H Y

COLONEL GARY S. FORTHMAN

Colonel Gary S. Forthman is the Commander, 72d Medical Group, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. He is responsible for planning, organizing, developing and implementing the delivery of optimal health services—prevention, wellness, care and training to the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, all hosted units and the Tinker community. Additionally, the Medical Group strives to maximize wartime and peacetime readiness and support for worldwide deployment and to provide an integrated managed care system for our TRICARE Prime enrollees in DoD Region 6.



Colonel Forthman was born in Sykesville, Maryland. He attended “The Citadel”, Military College of South Carolina, where he majored in Political Science. He graduated in 1974 and was commissioned through ROTC as an Ensign in the United States Navy, where he served as a marine engineer aboard various ships afloat till 1978. Between 1978 and 1983, Colonel Forthman remained affiliated with the Naval Reserve while working in the civilian sector. In 1983, he was commissioned in the United States Air Force as a Medical Service Corps officer. Colonel Forthman held a variety positions at Military Treatment Facilities and higher headquarters to include: commander of the medical squadron section, patient administration officer, war plans and readiness officer, logistics officer, both clinic and hospital administrator, deputy group commander, and group commander.

EDUCATION:

1974 Bachelor of Arts in Political Science “The Citadel” Military College of South Carolina
1980 Masters of Science in Management, George Washington University, Washington, DC
1984 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
1986 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
1997 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

BOARD CERTIFICATION:

Fellow, Society for Ambulatory Care Management
Associate, American College of Healthcare Executives

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. June 1983 – June 1985, Commander, Medical Squadron Section, Director of Patient Affairs, Director of Medical Readiness, USAF Blytheville Hospital, Blytheville AFB, AR
2. June 1985 – June 1988, Director of Patient Administration, USAF Hospital Torrejon, Torrejon AB, Spain
3. June 1988 – June 1989, Senior Fellowship-Ambulatory Care Management, HQ Air Force Office of Medical Support, Brooks AFB, TX
4. June 1989 – July 1991, Chief of Patient Administration and Ambulatory Care Branch, HQ Office of Medical Support Brooks AFB, TX
5. July 1991 – Sept 1993, Administrator, Director of Medical Logistics, USAF Clinic Kelly, Kelly AFB, TX
6. Sept 1993 – May 1996, Deputy Commander, 90th Medical Group; Administrator, 90th Medical Group, F.E. Warren AFB, WY
7. May 1996 – Jun 1999, Commander, 12th Medical Support Squadron; Deputy Commander, 12th Medical Group; Administrator, 12th Medical Group, Randolph AFB, TX
8. Jun 1999 – Jun 2001, Commander, 65th Medical Group, 65th Air Base Wing, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal
9. Jun 2001 – Present, Commander, 72d Medical Group, 72d Air Base Wing, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Ensign, Jul 1974
Lieutenant Junior Grade, Jul 1976
Captain, Jun 1980
Major, Nov 1989
Lieutenant Colonel, Jan 1995
Colonel, May 1999

(Current as of June 2001)